

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

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WSP Adds Three New Trooper Positions to Work the Northern Border

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) Commercial Vehicle Division is enhancing commercial motor vehicle safety on Washington's northern border by adding three troopers to the area. The WSP received federal funding for the troopers at three Canadian border crossings. Troopers will be assigned to Sumas, Okanogan, and Colville.

The troopers will focus on increasing the number of safety inspections and decreasing the number of international commercial vehicle related collisions in our state. During the previous five years Washington has experienced 51 crashes involving international carriers.

A safety inspection includes a thorough inspection of a truck and trailer's brake system, steering components, tires, wheels, frame and lights. If the vehicle fails an inspection it will be placed out of service and not driven until the repairs are completed. Commercial motor vehicle driver qualifications will be carefully scrutinized to ensure drivers entering Washington are properly licensed and endorsed. Shipping papers will be verified with the actual load being transported and hazardous material shipments will be inspected to verify compliance to federal regulations. Proper vehicle licensing, financial responsibility and operating authority will be reviewed.

The WSP will partner with federal and local law enforcement agencies by assisting them with commercial vehicle situations that may arise.

Troopers will be equipped with a new tool called Vision Sticks. This new technology will allow the trooper to inspect and verify loads by telescoping a camera into the load compartment of a truck or trailer. This will enhance the trooper's safety by providing the means of inspecting and verifying the load without entering the vehicle.

